Bio-Fuel Policy

1865. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate a comprehensive Bio-fuel policy; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard with financial allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Government have taken a policy decision with regard to blending of ethanol with petrol and have mandated the supply of 5% ethanol blended petrol in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamilnadu and Uttar Pradesh, and Union Territories of Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Pondicherry. Government have conducted a "Policy Analytical Study on the Utilization of Ethanol Fuel Blends and other Biofuels in Petrol and Diesel Engines" with the objective of developing measures for the accelerated use of biofueles as a substitute to petroleum based fuels and for reducing environmental pollution caused by the use of petroleum based fules. Research & Development work with regard to higher blends of ethanol with petrol, blending of ethanol & biodiesel with diesel, exploring different routes of ethanol production, development of technologies for converting different non-edible oils to biodiesel etc. is also underway. Interest subsidy for the production of ethanol from routes other than molasses, and for manufacturing kits/modified engines suitable for using higher biofuel blends, is available through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). The Planning Commission have prepared a Report on the Development of Biofueles, which has examined different aspects of production and use of biofueles. The Ministry of Rural Development have included bio-fuel plantations on wastelands/degraded lands under their ongoing programmes.

Providing Assistance for Solar Energy to Villages

1866. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing Central assistance for providing solar energy to villages;